

A Lifestyle of Stewardship
1 Corinthians 16:1-4

Russell Cook
West End Church of Christ
Knoxville, TN

1. For the next few minutes, we are going to explore the biblical concept of stewardship. We need to begin with a definition.
 - a. The Greek word for “steward” is oikonomos. Oikos means “house” and nomos means “manager.” Thus, a steward was a house manager or caretaker.
 - b. **(Gen. 39:6; 1 Cor. 4:1; 1 Pet. 4:10).**
2. Today, when we speak of stewardship, we refer to using all that God has given us wisely and generously.
3. God has truly given us all so much. We need to know how to use those gifts to please Him.
4. Now let’s examine several reasons to live a life of good stewardship.

I. We Give Out Of Obedience.

- A. The Old Testament demanded tithing.
 1. A tithe is a tenth or 10% of a person’s income dedicated to God.
 2. Abraham, Jacob and Malachi taught tithing.
 3. **Lk. 11:42.**
- B. The New Testament does not specify a percentage. **(1 Cor. 16:2)**
- C. How much should we give?
 1. Some believers stick rigidly with the tithe.

II. We Give Out Of Worship.

- A. Throughout Scripture, when God’s people came to worship Him, they always brought something in their hands. **(2 Sam. 24:24)**
- B. Likewise, we should not merely worship with what costs us nothing.

III. We Give Out Of Gratitude.

- A. Because the Lord has given to us, we give back to Him. **(Mt. 10:8)**
- B. Our giving acknowledges God’s generosity.

IV. We Give Out Of Faith.

- A. The apostle Paul reminds us in **2 Cor. 5:7**, “**We live by faith, not by sight.**”

V. We Give Out Of Joy.

- A. Read **2 Cor. 9:6-8**. “**God loves a cheerful giver.**”
 1. “Cheerful” comes from the Greek word hilaros from which we get our word “hilarious.”

VI. We Give Out Of Our Blessing.

- A. When we give, we bless others. **(1 Cor. 9:9-11)**
- B. When we give, God blesses us.
- C. **Lk. 6:38.**